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UNEMPLOYMENT - 1st QUARTER, 1933.

Trade Union Returns.

Statistics relating to Unemployment for the 1st Quarter of 1933, and preceding quarters, have been made available by the Commonwealth Statistician (Mr. E. T. McPhee).

The number of trade unionists represented in the returns from which the following figures have been derived is normally about half the total. The proportion is now, perhaps, rather higher because the Unions from which no returns are received include those with the most fluctuating membership, and whose membership at the present time is probably unusually low. Generally it may be said that the returns of unemployment include little information about rural employment, so that the percentage results given herein do not vary greatly with the season. The total unemployment in the country, however, may be affected a good deal by the crop seasons.

The percentages of unemployment in reporting Trade Unions for each quarter of the last two years were:-

1931	1st Quarter	..	25.8	per cent.
	2nd "	..	27.6	" "
	3rd "	..	28.3	" "
	4th "	..	28.0	" "
1932	1st "	..	28.3	" "
	2nd "	..	30.0	" "
	3rd "	..	29.6	" "
	4th "	..	28.1	" "
1933	1st "	..	26.5	" "

Besides the fact that rural employment enters directly into these returns only slightly, it must be noted that they refer to the mid-month of each quarter, and represent the conditions at the middle of that month. Consequently, the latest figures referred to herein relate to the middle of February.

The percentages given above show, for the more recent periods, the almost continuous rise which had been uninterrupted since 1929. After remaining fairly constant at 28.0 per cent. to 28.3 per cent. for three quarters - from August, 1931, to February, 1932 - the maximum point hitherto attained was reached in May, when the proportion of unemployment in the reporting Trade Unions was 30 per cent. of the membership. The August reports showed a slight improvement of about 4 per thousand members, but the November reports showed a further substantial improvement of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. (15 per thousand members) on the August figures. This improvement continued into the New Year. The February reports showed an improvement of 16 per thousand members. Since the unemployment rate reached its maximum in the 2nd quarter of 1932, there has been an improvement of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. or 35 per thousand members. This improvement since the 2nd quarter of 1932 has been experienced in all the States in the following order:- Improvement per 1,000 members - Tasmania 76; South Australia 47; Victoria 38; Queensland and Western Australia 32; New South Wales 30. The improvement during the first quarter of 1933 over the last quarter of 1932 was also general throughout the States in the following order:- Improvement per 1,000 members - Tasmania 40; Western Australia 18; New South Wales and South Australia 17; Victoria 13; Queensland 12.

The usual tables for Trade Union Unemployment are appended.

UNEMPLOYMENT - AUSTRALIA - Number and Membership
of Trade Unions Reporting, and Number and Percentage Unemployed -
1st Quarter, 1929; and 3rd Quarter, 1932 to 1st Quarter, 1933.

AUSTRALIA			1st Quarter, 1929	3rd Quarter, 1932	4th Quarter, 1932	1st Quarter, 1933
Number of Unions	375	395	392	394
Membership	420,756	412,997	409,902	412,674
Unemployed - Number	39,159	122,340	115,042	109,182
Percentage	9.3	29.6	28.1	26.5

Percentage of Members of Trade Unions returned as
Unemployed in each State for the 1st Quarter, 1929; 3rd
Quarter, 1932, to 1st Quarter, 1933.

State			1st Quarter, 1929	3rd Quarter, 1932	4th Quarter, 1932	1st Quarter, 1933
			%	%	%	%
New South Wales	9.7	33.0	31.9	30.2
Victoria	8.6	27.0	25.2	23.9
Queensland	7.1	19.3	17.9	16.7
South Australia	13.2	35.4	32.2	30.5
Western Australia	8.5	30.1	28.9	27.1
Tasmania	8.7	26.9	23.8	19.8
<u>AUSTRALIA</u>	9.3	29.6	28.1	26.5

Unemployment Percentages in Industrial Groups -
Australia - 1st Quarter, 1929; 2nd Quarter, 1932, to
1st Quarter, 1933.

Industrial Group			1st Quarter, 1929	3rd Quarter, 1932	4th Quarter, 1932	1st Quarter, 1933
			%	%	%	%
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	..		6.5	39.4	38.4	36.2
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc.			11.2	32.9	31.6	30.2
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc.	..		5.4	20.7	18.4	16.6
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc.			9.8	21.3	17.8	17.1
V. Books, Printing, etc.	..		2.6	16.7	15.6	15.8
VI. Other Manufacturing	..		13.8	41.3	39.8	37.8
VII. Building	10.6	41.6	40.2	38.7
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc.	..		13.2	35.6	33.7	29.1
X. Land Transport, other than Railway and Tramway Services			7.6	29.9	28.0	27.1
IX, XI, XII, XIII, and XIV, Other and Miscellaneous	..		7.3	22.0	21.1	19.9
<u>TOTAL</u>	9.3	29.6	28.1	26.5

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Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics,
CANBERRA, F.C.T. 3rd April, 1933.